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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

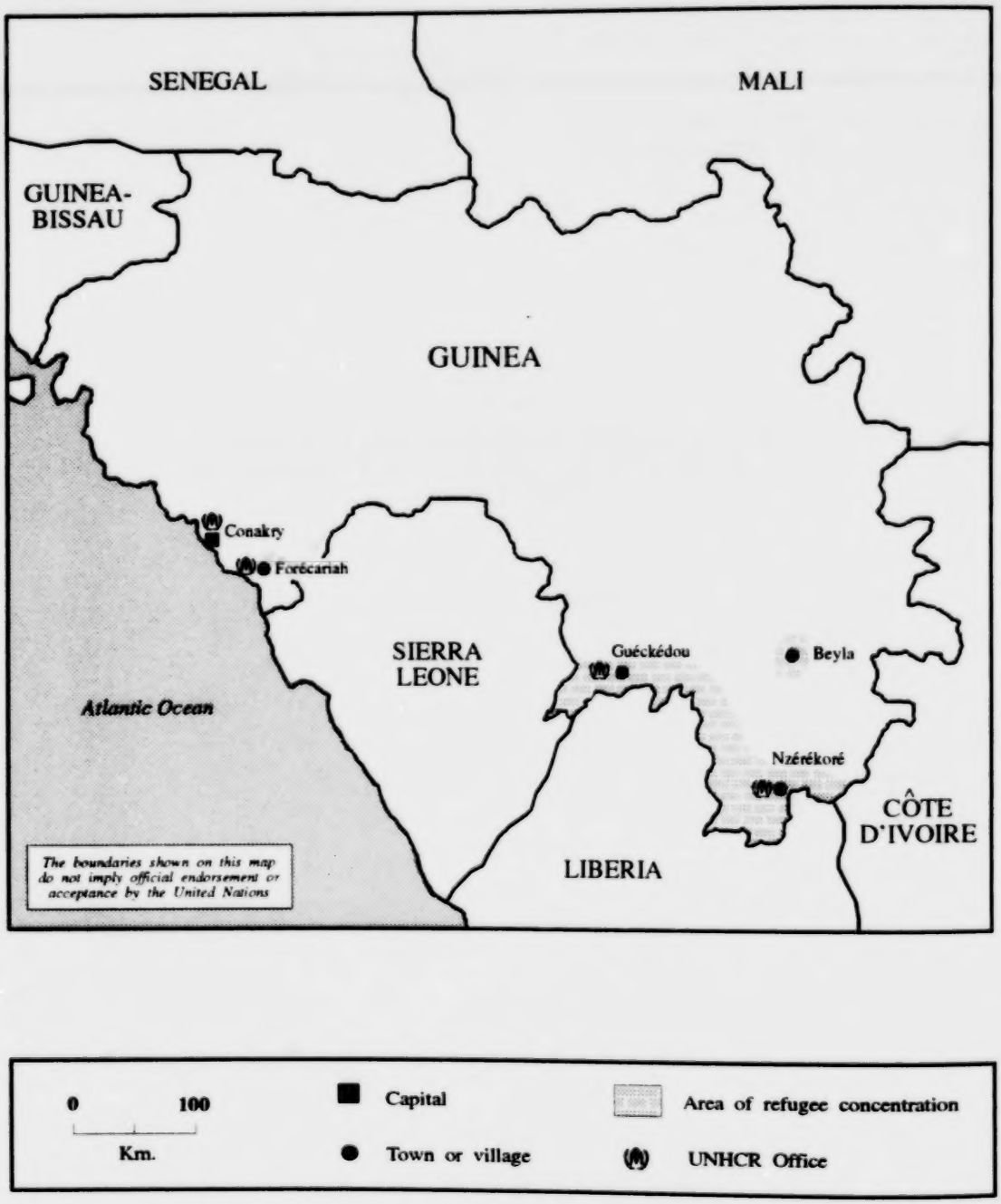
PART I. AFRICA

Section 10 - Guinea

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02765

GUINEA


SENEGAL
MALI
GUINEA-
BISSAU
GUINEA
Conakry
Forécariah
SIERRA
LEONE
Guéckédou
Beyla
Atlantic Ocean
Nzérékoré
CÔTE
D'IVOIRE
LIBERIA
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
100
Km.
Capital
Town or village
Area of refugee concentration
UNHCR Office

I.10 GUINEA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, the refugee population in Guinea stood at approximately 553,000 persons, including 398,000 Liberians and 155,000 Sierra Leoneans, all being assisted by UNHCR and settled in several towns and villages (Nzérékoré, Beyla, Lola, Youmou, Kissidougou, Guéckédou and Macenta) in the Forest Region of Guinea, not far from the point where the borders of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone meet, in south-eastern Guinea.

2. Included in this population are 708 urban refugees of Liberian and Sierra Leonean nationality living in Conakry.

3. The Liberian refugees are from the Nano, Gio, Kpelle, Vai, Tomas and Mandingo ethnic groups, while most of the Sierra Leoneans are from the Vou and Mende groups.

2. Major developments (1994 and 1995)

4. The refugee census conducted by the Guinean authorities and UNHCR fixed the number of refugees residing on Guinean territory in September 1994 at 492,000. Since then, however, 89,300 refugees, including those settled at Forécariah, arrived in 1994, bringing the refugee population at 31 March 1995 to 581,117.

5. In 1994 as in previous years, the influx of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees into the Forest Region continued throughout the year; the pace of new arrivals stepped up dramatically following the Akossombo accords concluded in September. In addition, January 1995 was marked by an influx of Sierra Leonean refugees, the first of its kind in Forécariah in the west of Guinea, a few kilometres from the capital Conakry. This area, which has so far witnessed no refugee flows, is now occupied by some 25,000 Sierra Leoneans of the Soussou ethnic group. At the end of the needs assessment and planning mission undertaken in the area by the Emergency Preparedness and Response team from UNHCR, a multisectoral emergency project (water supplies, shelter construction, medical supplies) was set up by UNHCR with the assistance of several implementing agencies operational partners (MSF-France, OXFAM, ADRA, SNAPE).

6. Furthermore, in the Forest Region of Guinea, since the beginning of the year there has been an uninterrupted flow of Sierra Leonean refugees into the Guéckédou area. These movements are not unconnected with the situation prevailing in Sierra Leone.

3. 1996 country programmes

7. In 1994, following the influx of more Liberian refugees into Guinea, the initial budget of the care and maintenance project was revised upwards. The supplementary funds made it possible to meet the additional needs of the project in various areas (transport, domestic needs, health care, primary education, sanitation, shelter, community services and agency operational support).

8. The 1995 budget for operational activities is largely the same as for 1994, but the growing needs of the project, arising from the continuing influx of Sierra Leonean refugees, suggest that more resources will be needed before year end.

9. The assistance programme for Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees is entering its sixth year, with two categories of beneficiaries: the refugees who arrived at the beginning of the influx (in 1989, 1990 and 1992); and the more recent arrivals (1993, 1994 and 1995). Until circumstances permit the large-scale repatriation of the refugees, the UNHCR Branch Office in Conakry will continue its efforts aimed at:

- Promoting the rights of refugees and the principles of legal protection;

- Building on the accomplishments of the regular programme.

(a) Objectives

10. Material assistance will be provided to the refugees in the light of their degree of self-sufficiency. Aside from the material assistance to be provided (essential household goods, foodstuffs from the World Food Programme, drinking water, medical care and the organization of community services), efforts will be aimed at:

- Increasing crop production through the provision of inputs (seeds, tools) to producers and through better management of technical services;

- Promoting income-generating activities by financing micro-projects that have an immediate impact and multiplier effects;

- Helping vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, disabled refugees and unaccompanied minors; and

- Improving school curricula in primary education for the benefit of 50,000 pupils.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

11. Assistance to the urban refugees in Conakry will continue in 1996, priority being given to the vocational training of refugees in the informal sector. Efforts under way since 1993 to improve the statistics-gathering system and refugee census-taking will continue.

(i) Resettlement

12. For the many refugees who have requested resettlement in a third country for well-founded reasons, the UNHCR Branch Office will continue to work with the diplomatic missions of the countries of resettlement in order to examine those applications already selected for purposes of family reunification.

(ii) Voluntary Repatriation

13. Given the current security conditions in Liberia and Sierra Leone, the large-scale voluntary repatriation of refugees is virtually out of the question. However, as in 1994, UNHCR will facilitate the individual voluntary repatriation of refugees returning to accessible zones, such as Monrovia.

14. In order to meet the growing needs arising from the new inflows of refugees into the Forest Region of Guinea and Forécariah, the proposed budget for the operational activities of the care and maintenance project in 1996 has been revised upwards. The breakdown by sector of activity of the allocations is as follows (in dollars):

Sectors	Initial allocation 1995	Revised allocation 1995	Initial allocation 1996
Transport	3 200 000	4 443 644	4 488 790
Domestic needs	200 000	546 921	937 852
Water	250 000	597 489	733 144
Sanitation	200 000	405 704	478 728
Health	1 500 000	1 628 246	2 268 149
Shelter	350 000	618 893	801 865
Community services	600 000	562 012	678 988
Education	1 800 000	1 715 094	2 059 724
Agriculture	700 000	673 181	936 159
Forestry	200 000	104 542	104 542
Income generation	200 000	249 551	184 395
Legal assistance	280 000	824 656	726 232
Agency op. support	90 000	230 067	187 132
Total	9 570 000	12 600 000	14 585 700

The volume of goods going to the nearly 600,000 refugees and the bad state of repair of the roads have made the transport sector the most important activity of the project. Some 30.7 per cent of 1996 budget resources will be allocated to it. The other sectors, in order of importance, are: primary education for 50,000 pupils, 14.1 per cent; health care, 15.5 per cent; and promotion of activities aimed at boosting crop production, 6.4 per cent.

(c) Implementing partners

15. The 1990 cooperation agreement between the Government of Guinea and UNHCR enables UNHCR and the implementing agencies involved in programme delivery to ensure the implementation of humanitarian and refugee-protection activities in Guinea. In this context, through the Nzérékore and Guéckédou sub-offices, and the office in Forécariah, UNHCR will carry out the on-site activities. The UNHCR Branch Office at Conakry will coordinate all the refugee assistance activities being executed by the Government of Guinea and by the agencies of the United Nations system and the NGO operational partners.

16. In 1996, unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the UNHCR Branch Office in Conakry plans to renew the partnership agreements concluded in 1995 with:

- Médecins sans Frontières (MSF)/Belgium and International Action against Hunger (AICF), for refugee health care;

- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Guinean Red Cross (CRG), for the distribution of material assistance (food and basic necessities);

- the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), for transport and logistics;

- the International Rescue Committee (IRC), for the school programme; and The Centre International de Développement et de Recherches (CIDR)

- the Fonds d'Aide aux Initiatives de Base (FAIB), for the promotion of income- generating activities.

17. In addition, various entities in the Guinean Government -- the Ministry of the Interior, Security and Planning, the Regional Agricultural Inspectorate, the Société Nationale d'Approvisionnement en Points d'Eau (SNAPE) and the Bureau Technique de Génie Rural (BTGR), to name only a few -- will play an active role in implementing the project in 1996.

18. As in the past, the World Food Programme will also provide basic foodstuffs to refugees whose socio-economic circumstances so warrant.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

19. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities - Part I refers)

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

20. The 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates due to the fact that three Professional posts including the Deputy Representative post were not filled for extended periods. Thus, savings were made in staff and staff-related costs such as travel and general operating expenses.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of fund)

21. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates mainly because four Professional and 13 General Service posts were created and 10 Professional, one Field Service and 19 General Service posts were extended from January 1995 to December 1996 to provide ongoing assistance and protection to the refugees.

22. As a result of the sudden influx of refugees from Sierra Leone in early 1995, an allocation was made from the 1995 Emergency Fund to enable the fielding of a mission, in February 1995, of an emergency response team to the Forecariah region some 120 kms away from Conakry. Because of the difficulty to cover Forecariah from Conakry due to logistical constraints, a Field Office was opened and equipped with vehicles, communication material and other essential support

items. After the departure of the emergency response team, the operation has been covered for the time being through staff on short-term contracts.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

23. The 1996 requirements are somewhat lower than the 1995 revised estimates as it is anticipated that less equipment will have to be purchased. The possible creation of new posts for the operation in Forecariah is under consideration and further budgetary provisions may have to be made accordingly.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN GUINEA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
–	–	1,000.0	EMERGENCY FUND	–
12,900.0	9,570.0	12,600.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	14,585.7
160.0 a/	–	300.0 c/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
5.6 b/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
2.2 b/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
2,355.0	2,654.0	3,639.6 d/	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	2,950.1
15,422.8	12,224.0	17,539.6	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	17,535.8
224.5	288.8	209.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	179.1
15,647.3	12,512.8	17,748.8	TOTAL (1)	17,714.9
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
3.4	3.4	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
340.0	–	–	LIBERIA REPATRIATION PROGRAMME	–
62.2	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	–
71.5	67.0	18.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	18.2
477.1	70.4	18.2	TOTAL (2)	18.2
16,124.4	12,583.2	17,767.0	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	17,733.1

a/ obligation incurred against the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
c/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
d/ includes an allocation of US$ 372,700 from the Emergency Fund